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ANCIENT MACEDONIA
THE MACEDONIC WARS
320–270 BCE

Macedonian empire division after the death of Alexander III of Macedon and civil wars between the Macedonic kingdoms ruled by Macedonian dynasties



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The intention of this essay is to provide simple and easy to understand overview of periods from ancient Macedonian history and culture. It avoids substantial and detailed explanations that consider wider historical background of the events and persons described below, and is written primarily for those approaching the topic for the first time. It also avoids complex explanatory comments or insightful footnotes on the citations from the sources. The given explanatory notes are prevalently etymological.

The introduction comprises the early periods of Macedonian history after the death of Alexander III of Macedon. The time-frame elaborated as a main theme of this essay ranges from the end of the 4th century BCE until the establishing of the rule of Antigonid dynasty in Macedonia at the beginning of the 3rd century BCE. The interpretations given here are meant to enhance our understanding and appreciation of a kingdom that represented a superpower of the ancient world. They are focused strictly on the Macedonian aspect of the story disregarding the wider socio-political perspective.

All the dates and references to centuries are „BCE“ except where indicated otherwise. Throughout this essay, Macedonia/Macedonians generally refer to the area of the mainland north of Mount Olymp, southeast of the Mount Shar (lat. *Scardus*) and west of the Rhodope Mountains. Macedonian peninsula refers to what is called „*Balkans*“ as of the 19th century, occupying the part of southeastern Europe that lies south of the Danube and Sava rivers and forms a peninsula bounded by the Adriatic and Ionian seas in the west, the Aegean and Black seas in the east, and the Mediterranean Sea in the south.

Latinized/Anglicized names are given in parenthesis, some names and technical terms are transliterated and these will be obvious when they appear. All terms and titles (e.g. Göl/Gaul) have been transliterated directly from their original ancient forms with as few changes as possible: thus river *Strumon* rather than *Strymon* (ancient "Y" was readen "U", not "i"), or *Aegeads* rather than *Argeads* (the first introduction of the letter "R" is attested only in the second century BCE).

The terminology and concepts that are modern inventions (like '*Hellenistic*' or '*Greek*') are altogether avoided. Such empirically wrong terms used by modern historiography were unknown to the ancient world and their continued use perpetuates misleading assumptions.

The modern-historiography 'privileged moments' are largely avoided too. For historians today one such a privileged moment (of places and monuments as '*clasical*') is '*Clasical Athens*', the Athens of the 5th and 4th centuries BCE. But when and why is so regarded? Was '*Clasical Athens*' regarded as '*Clasical*' already in antiquity? By whom?

The definitions, current meanings and related concepts of the words in English are taken from the Oxford American Dictionary and Thesaurus (Mac OsX version 1.0.2 PowerPC) and/or Meriam-Webster online dictionary. For the words in Macedonian is used the online ENCYCLOPÆDIA MACEDONICA / MAKEDONSKA ENCIKLOPEDIJA Vol. 1 & 2, makedonski.info and Idividi online Macedonian dictionaries.

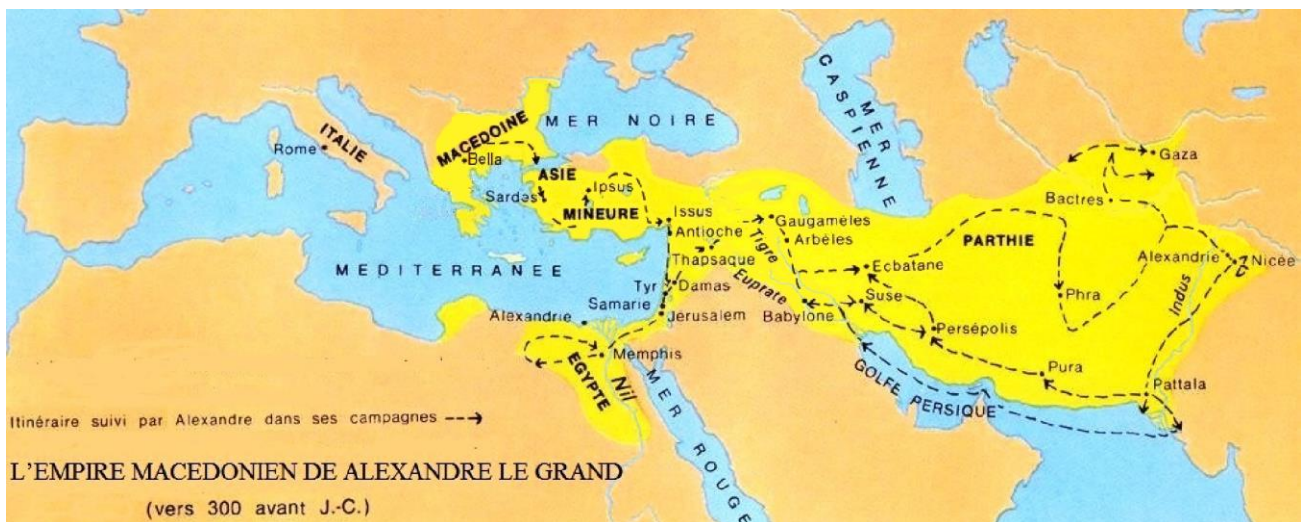
The sources that were used are listed in the References at the end of this essay.

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Introduction

The Macedonic Wars (215-30 BCE) were a series of civil wars between the Macedonian kingdoms created throughout the fragmentation of Macedonian Empire after the death of Alexander III of Macedon in 323 BCE. To settle the question whether the empire of Alexander should disintegrate or survive as a whole, and if so, under whose rule, the successor kings fought four full-scale civil wars. During the next half century, it was decided whether these states could endure. As it turned out, there were no great territorial changes, although there were dynastic changes. After 280 BCE, the period of state-forming came to an end. The overall result, reached by 300 BCE, was a division into three large independent parts, which more or less coincided with Alexander's possessions in Europe (Macedonia with Thrace, Mollosia, Epirus and Peloponnesus), Asia (Persia), and Africa (Egypt).



But the start of the Macedonic civil wars wasn't immediate. This was because of the Lamian War, a rebellion of the ex city-states on Peloponnesus, which on the notice of Alexander's death took the opportunity to form a coalition and rebelled in an attempt to overthrow the Macedonian yoke. It was the vain attempt to revive the old Achaean League¹ (Κοινὸν τῶν Ἀχαιῶν, 'Koinon ton Akhaion' - "Assembly of Achaeans").²

¹ Achaean League was divided into two periods: 1. The earlier Period, when the Danaans from North Africa took possession of Peloponnesus, which had until then been chiefly inhabited by Macedonic Pelasgians, a portion of the latter, under Tisamenus, retreated northwards and reoccupied the north coast of Peloponnesus, and/or returned further northward to their ancestral Aryan homeland in Macedon and Thrace. The country thus occupied by Danaans contained 12 confederate city-states, till at length they abolished the kingly rule after the death of Ogyges, and established a "democracy" (a blatant oxymoron of the modern conventional historiography, which describes the slavery as "democracy", with most shameless politically-biased hypocrisy). In the time of Erodote (Lat. *Herodotus*) the 12 towns of which the league consisted were: Pellene, Aegaira, Aegae, Bura, Helice, Aegium, Rhypes (Rhypae), Patreis (ae), Phareis (ae), Olenus, Dyme, and Tritaeis (Tritaea). Afterwards it was clear that the Rhypes and Aegae weren't part of this assembly, rather were suspiciously "added by Erodote" or by later transcribers, and logically they soon disappeared from the

When Alexander III of Macedon left Macedonia to conquer the Achaemenid Persian empire, he appointed Antipater as his viceroy at home. This veteran officer remained supreme commander of the Macedonian forces in Europe after the death of the king (on 11 June 323 BCE), even though a courtier named Perdika (Lat. *Perdiccas*) became regent of the new ruler of the Macedonian empire, Alexander's half-brother Filip III Aridei, who was mentally unfit to rule.

Antipater, the regent of Macedonia and commander of the Macedonian forces in Europe, set out against the rebels with an initial force of some 13,000 strong. The rebel forces, commanded by Leosten (Lat. *Leosthenes*), had some initial successes against the Macedonians at Plataea and at Thermopylae. The Macedonians retreated to Lamia where Antipater took a stronghold, and where he waited for the reinforcements to arrive from Asia. The Achaean rebels, despite their early successes, have stuck with their siege of Lamia. The well-fortified town and the disciplined Macedonian army proved impenetrable obstacle to their attacks, and even their commander Leosten was mortally wounded during a sallying forth from the city. His death prompted the rebels to retreat. In the meantime the Macedonians, now holding a total control of the Aegean Sea as well, were able to transfer additional troops back to Macedonia. Encircled Macedonian forces of Antipater were finally assisted by the arrival of combined troops from Asia and defeated the rebels at the Battle of Crannon in 322 BCE. With this last Macedonian triumph the revolt effectively ended, and every hope of the occupied Peloponnesian and Achaean lands to regain their independence vanished forever. The long expired and agonized city-states dubbed “Greek” (this Latin exonym was introduced much later by the Romans) were finally obliterated from the history.

After putting down this rebellion the stage for the beginning of the Macedonic Wars was set. At first the Assembly of Macedonians Under Arms in Babylon immediately after the Alexander's death appointed the tschelnik Perdika (Lat. *Perdiccas*) as a regent. Peithon, Krater (Lat. *Craterus*) and Antipater restored order in the east and west, Perdika himself was occupied in Cappadocia (central Turkey). Alexander had never actually conquered this region completely, and the last Persian satrap, a man named Ariarathes, had created a kingdom of his own. The Macedonian satrap of Phrygia, ‘One-eyed’ Antigon (Lat. *Antigonus Monophthalmus*), had grown accustomed to defending the road between Macedonia and the east against Ariarathes' attacks. However, when Perdika successfully invaded Cappadocia, ‘One-eyed’ Antigon didn't appear to assist him. It is not known why. What is certain, however, is that when Perdika asked him to appear for a military court because of his diversion, he fled to Antipater's court in Macedonia. Thus, the first Macedonic civil war has started.

number. The bond which united the city-states of this league was not a cultural or political, but a religious one, as is shown by the common sacrifice offered at Helice to Poseidon. In a short period the league reached the height of its power, for it embraced Athens, Megara, Aegina, Salamis, and the whole of Peloponnesus, with the exception of Sparta, Elis, Tegea, Orchomenos, and Mantinea. The confederation exercised no great influence in the overall affairs of Peloponnesus, and ended in the time when it was broken up by the Macedonians. 2. The later period. When Antigon in 281 BCE made the unsuccessful attempt to deprive Ptolemy Ceraunus of the Macedonian throne; the Achaeans availed themselves of the opportunity of shaking off the Macedonian yoke, and renewing their ancient confederation. But in vain, their role on the historical stage has ended forever.

² Hence also “Κοινὴ” (Kojne) – literary ‘Koj’ - who, and ‘ne’ - no, thus 'who-doesn't (knows it)', 'common (speech)', introduced by Macedonic kings as the lingua franca of the ancient Aegean. Compare with „Kojznae“ - 'who knows' in plain Macedonian:

<http://www.makedonski.info/show/%D0%BA%D0%BE%D1%98%D0%B7%D0%BD%D0%B0%D0%B5>

THE FIRST MACEDONIC WAR, 320 BCE

During the last weeks of 321 BCE, civil war broke out between the Macedonian *tschelniks* (generals): Krater, Antigon and Antipater revolted. And the war (once again!) was provoked in the best manner of Macedonian traditions - by the mother queen Olympia! Namely, Antipater's daughter Nika (lat. *Nicaea*) was promised to Perdika, but the regent broke off the engagement when Alexander's mother Olympia offered him Kleopatra, a full sister of the great king and the widow of king Alexander of Molossia. Antipater felt insulted, and this was, according to known sources, the reason for the beginning of the civil war. That was the outbreak of **First Macedonic War**.³



The intentions of Perdika with this marriage were more than obvious - he was secretly aiming at the empty emperor's throne of Macedon. But, the other Macedonic generals and new rulers weren't happy with this his move, and they weren't ready at all to sit back and watch. Beside the quarrel with Antipater, Perdika was soon forced to intervene on the other side too. In December 321 BCE, he was sending the remains of Alexander to the tomb that had been prepared in Macedonia. When it had arrived in Damascus, Ptolemy convinced the leader of the convoy that Alexander had wanted to be buried in the temple of his heavenly father Ammon in Egypt. Accordingly, the corpse was brought to Egypt, where it was to find a final resting place in Alexandria. This body-snatching was a provocation and Perdika, as regent, was forced to organize a punitive action.

In 320 BCE, the four rebels sealed their alliance against Perdika by intermarriage. Antipater gave his daughters Fila and Evridika to Krater and Ptolemy; Nikea, who had once been promised to Perdika, married to Lizimah (lat. *Lysimachus*), the governor of Thrakia. Perdika saw that a formidable coalition has been organized against him. So, first he decided to invade Egypt, and

³ These wars are called by the modern conventional historians "*Diadochi Wars*", i.e. the 'successors wars'.

sent Evmen (lat. *Eumenes*, Alexander's former secretary and now the governor of Cappadocia) against the armies of Antipater and Krater. Evmen had no experience as a military commander and had to face Krater, the most experienced of all Macedonian generals. Nevertheless, he accepted battle (late April 320 BCE; probably somewhere near the Hellespont), and, to everybody's surprise, defeated his opponent. Krater died fighting; what was left of his army managed to leave the battle field and joined Antipater in Macedonia.

It was May 320 when Perdika reached Egypt. Twice, he tried to cross the Nile near Pelusium, but Ptolem was able to prevent this. Now, Perdika moved to the apex of the Delta, and retried the river crossing in the neighborhood of Heliopolis. However, his men were carried away by the Nile. To all those present, it was obvious that Perdika could never invade Egypt, and his soldiers, already resenting his strictness - rebelled. At the end his colonels Peiton (lat. *Peithon*), Antigen (lat. *Antigenes*) and Seleuk (lat. *Seleucus*) decided to kill Perdika, to put an end to the civil war.



Ptolem's and ex-Perdika's officers started negotiations. Ptolem was offered the regency, but he was too smart to take the bait: he wanted to keep what he had won, not risking it in a larger game. He appointed Peithon and an officer named Ariadej (lat. *Arridaeus*), two people who were clearly lacking prestige and would never be able to stop separatists like Ptolem. However, Antipater was not happy with this arrangement. He wanted to be the new regent, and he may have been capable of reuniting Alexander's empire. At *Trip paradisus* (perhaps at Baalbek), he settled the affairs in the way he wanted. The most important points of the *Trip paradisus Settlement* were:

- Ptolem was to remain governor of Egypt;
- Perdikas' murderer Seleuk was to become governor of rich Babylonia;
- the second murderer and former regent, Peiton, was to remain responsible for Media;

- the third murderer, Antigen, was the new governor of Elam;
- the former regent of Filip III Arridej was the new governor of Hellespontine Phrygia;
- Antipater's ally, Lizimah, kept Thrakia;
- his ally 'One-eyed' Antigon was reappointed as regent and governor of Pamphylia, Lycia and Phrygia, to-which Lycaonia was added;
- Antigon was to take over Perdika's army and had to expel Evmen;
- Antipater himself was the new regent and would keep an eye on queen-mother Roxane, Filip III Aridei and the young Alexander IV, who were to move to Macedonia.

Having settled all affairs, Antipater and the royal family went back to Macedonia. But the settlement at *Tripardisus* meant the end of the united empire. For some time the fiction of a united Macedonian Empire under the sovereignty of the old royal family was kept up, but from the first the generals were the real depositories of power, and practically a division of authority took effect almost from Alexander's death. Without having one supreme ruler the situation quickly resulted into "federalisation" of the Macedonian empire, and the contours of the future kingdoms became visible. The independence of Egypt was officially recognized, and Antipater and Antigon, the veteran commanders of the largest armies, had in fact divided Europe and Asia between themselves.



THE SECOND MACEDONIC WAR, 319–316 BCE

The things were not meant to remain calm in Macedonia and other regions under Macedonic rule. On contrary, they were about to become a much, much more complicated... In Egypt, Ptolemy had de facto become an independent king (i.e. pharaoh); Antipater and the 'One-eyed' Antigonus were the supreme commanders of the Macedonian forces in Europe and Asia. Especially Antipater in Macedonia had the additional advantage because he was the regent and protector of the incapable king Philip III Arrideus and Alexander IV, the son of Roxane and Alexander III of Macedon. And he was also protector of the queen-mother Olympias. Technically, they were very similar to the Persian *satraps*, with one difference - being Macedonians they commanded the mighty Macedonian armies.



Above: **Dreaded Macedonian Falankas (lat. *Phalanx*), impenetrable wall of foot soldiers armed with long pikes (*sarrisae*)**

Having no emperor to rule them anymore, the Macedonic generals unexpectedly gained a lot more power and influence. And once in power their ambitions grew exponentially. Instead of contributing for the common cause and preserving the inherited empire, their personal interest and supreme egoism, not expected from the most prominent nobles of the Alexander's royal companions, prevailed. They were perhaps excellent soldiers, trained to wage wars, but unfit to reign empire. And their professional inclination, combined with large doses of megalomania, brought the Macedonian empire to a seemingly endless civil war. Alexander, unfortunately, never arrived to the mature age which would've made him a wise emperor committed to governing his immense empire. Of course, dying young was important part of the marvelous myth created around his undoubtedly exceptional personality. But, the Macedonian state elite left by him lacked a subtle governing skills and peacetime perspective. And, Alexander's empire was simply too big for them. So, very soon they all followed Perdika's example and came with the same idea - to keep for themselves the territories of the Macedonian empire confided to them. Why wait the Alexander's child to grow and

perhaps become an emperor if they can become kings themselves, or even emperors, who knows... Accordingly, they even started to present themselves as the heirs of Alexander the Great in their public arts and ceremonies, but ironically, they based their governance on the policy of his father Filip II.

The death of the Macedonia's regent marked the beginning of the **Second Macedonic War**. In the autumn of 319, when Antipater succumbed to old age, he appointed a reliable, veteran officer named Poliperh (lat. *Polyperchon*) as the new regent of the two young kings. However, Antipater's ambitious and reckless son Kasander, who had been made second in command, didn't accept his father decision. He organized a rebellion and allied himself to Ptolem. The Macedonian pharaon of Egypt has probably been waiting for the occasion. He immediately launched an attack on Syria and Phoenicia. To any Egyptian ruler, this was a normal thing to do: the pharaons had already conquered these countries 1,000 years before, and the last kings of independent Egypt, Teo and Nectanebo II, had tried to do the same.

At the same time, the 'One-eyed' Antigon in Asia decided that he could try to become more independent too. He commanded the world's largest army, which was battle-proven, and had established his superiority over the satraps in what is now Turkey. Antigon now joined the alliance of ambitious Kasander and Ptolem. It was an odd coalition, because the goals of Ptolem, the 'One-eyed' Antigon and Kasander were incompatible. The Macedonian pharaon of Egypt wanted an independent kingdom and was aiming at the final division from the Macedonian empire. Antigon, on the other hand, still believed in the unity of Alexander's kingdom, albeit under his personal authority. In the future, they would be enemies. But the goals of ambitious Kasander, were even more megalomaniac. He aimed to nothing less than to become the new Macedonian emperor. However, for the moment, their interests were coinciding - all they wanted is the regent Poliperh and king Filip III to disappear.

But, the regent of Macedonia Poliperh was not easily defeated. For example, he made king Filip III Aridei write a letter patent to Evmen, one of the satraps that had been defeated by the 'One-eyed' Antigon. In the letter he (Filip III) ordered Evmen to take command of several military units from Antigons' army. From now on, the war was between the two regents and two supreme commanders in Asia. The letter was written by Alexander's half-brother and meant much to the soldiers. Many sided with Evmen, who also seized one of the royal treasures (which Alexander the Great had discovered at Persepolion and had sent to Macedonia). Having men and money, Evmen went to Phoenicia, where he expelled Ptolem's forces and started the construction of a navy for Poliperh (spring 318 BCE).

In the meantime, as regent in Macedonia, in order to recruit more soldiers Poliperh had decreed that the ex city-states, occupied so far by Macedonian Army garrisons set by Antipater, would be 'free and autonomous' again if they side with him in the war against Antigon. Ptolem and most importantly against Kasander. The result was a stalemate. Many city-states in disbelief went over to the ruler of Macedonia, but Piraeus, the important port of Athens, sided with the rebel Kasander. Yet, the decision in war was to take place somewhere else. In the autumn of 318 BCE, Poliperh was overrun by Kasander at Megalopolis and his navy was defeated by Antigon's fleet in the Bosphorus, and because the navy that Evmen was building never appeared, Poliperh lost control of the Aegean Sea to Antigon I the 'One-eyed'. But he was not interested; to him, Evmen was more dangerous, and he hurried to Phoenicia. Kasander was the main profiteer of the situation. After his victory over Poliperh he secured the support of Athens (where Demetrij of Faleron, a pupil of the Macedonian philosopher Aristotel of Stagira, was made governor) and in the spring of 317 BCE, he was recognized as the ruler of Macedonia and regent of king Filip III Aridei.



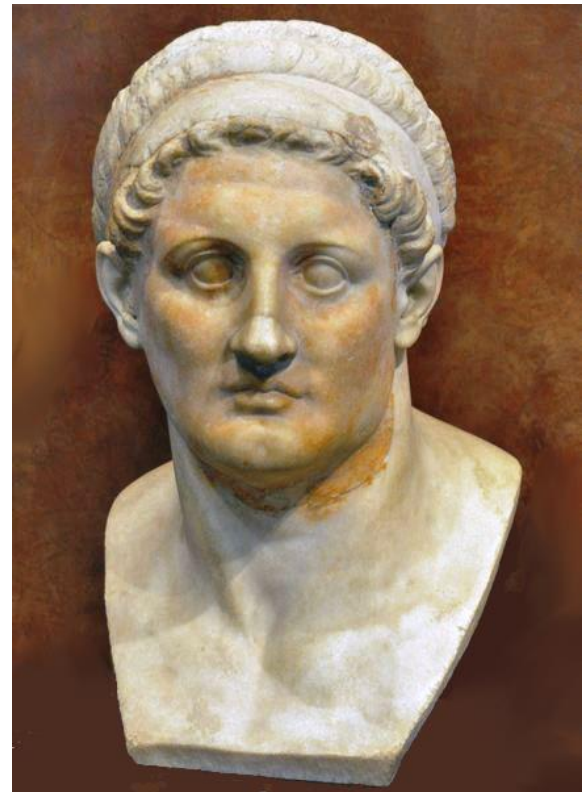
Poliperh, however, had made his escape to Epirus in the west. In his presence were Alexander's widow Roxane and his son, the infant Alexander IV. Here, he was joined by Olympia, the queen-mother of Alexander the Great, and king Aeacid of Epirus. It was not a very powerful coalition, but it could play one trump card: the boy Alexander IV was the lawful successor of the great Alexander, whereas his uncle Filip III Aridei was a son of the great Filip II of Macedon. When in October 317 BCE, Filip III Aridei and his wife Evridika (lat. *Eurydice*) met them at the frontier - Kasander was already campaigning in the Peloponnese against the city-states who dared to join them by promise of being freed after, and he was gaining ground toward them. Even worst - their entire army deserted them and joined the invaders. So, after being captured by Kasander Filip III Aridei was immediately executed (25 December 317 BCE). Many supporters of Kasander who dared to oppose this decision were massacred as well.

Then Kasander was approaching and besieged the queen-mother Olympia in Pydna, a harbor at the foot of the holy mountain Olymp. Although both Poliperh and Aeacid tried to save her, she was forced into surrender. Poliperh was finally repelled by the reckless Kasander in 317 BCE and he retreated to Asia. His main enemy was Evmen, the former satrap of Cappadocia, who had once sided with the first regent of the kings, Perdika. Kasander promised to save Olympia's life, but had her executed not much later (early 316 BCE). Roxane and the baby Alexander IV were killed after a few years. The only one who could now claim to belong to the royal house, was Kasander, who was married to Alexander's half-sister Tessalonika. His fervent personal ambition caused irreparable damage to the Macedonian state. The most appreciated dynasty of Macedonia, the Aegeads⁴, for

⁴ M.B. Hatzopoulos explains the "Argeads" dynastic name which originates from their first capital city: "*Karanos is depicted as conquering the city (urbem, πόλιν) of Edessa and renaming it Aegeai and its citizens Aegeadai (= Argeadai), the ethnikon by which the Lower Macedonians have been known since the time of Hekataios.*" - M.B. Hatzopoulos "Macedonian institutions under kings", p. 465.

This fact is supported by yet another linguistic certainty, that of the letter 'R' which was introduced in the ancient scripts only in the 2nd century BCE in Ptolemaic Egypt.

whom the brave Macedonians were ready without any reserve to go until the end of the world, was exterminated.



Above left: **Queen Olympias, mother of Alexander III of Macedon**; right: **Ptolemy I Soter**

Although Perdika in Asia had been eliminated in the First Macedonic War (320 BCE), his satrap Evmen had been able to withstand earlier attacks by Antigon the 'One-eyed' in Asia. At the beginning of the Second Macedonic War, Evmen was besieged in a fortress named *Nora* in the western Taurus Mountains, on the confines of Lycia and Cappadocia, and Antigon had almost defeated him. However, Poliperh was pushed with his army away from Macedonia by Kasander, and the immediate war against him was more important, so the siege to *Nora* was lifted.

Now Antigon regretted that he had allowed Evmen to make his escape in the first place. He had sided with Poliperh. But, while the Poliperh was busy in Macedonia, Evmen was forced by Antigon to abandon his plans, and started to march to the east. His main asset was that the king Filip III Aridei, serving as a puppet of Poliperh, had appointed him as supreme commander of the Macedonian forces in Asia. However, when he arrived at Babylon, another Macedonian high-rank officer, Seleuk Nikator ('the Victor'), the commander of the Royal Companion cavalry, refused to accept his credentials, and attacked his army. At the end Evmen was forced to make his escape to Susa, the capital of Elam (spring 317 BCE).

Here he met the satraps of the eastern provinces, which were technically still the subjects of Filip III Aridei and were not deeply involved in the struggle between the king and his enemies. Together, the eastern satraps possessed a large army, because they had fought against one of them, Peiton of Media, who had tried to subdue his colleagues. Peiton had been defeated, but the victorious army had not been disbanded. Evmen addressed the satraps, told them that they had to think of the unity of the Macedonian Empire and its dynasty, which were defended by Poliperh and Evmen, but threatened by Ptolemy, Kasander, and Antigon the 'One-eyed'. After this speech, the satraps sided with Evmen.



Soon, Antigonus arrived again. He could reach for Evmen, but was unable to defeat him and retreated to Media (August 317 BCE), where he wanted to give some rest to his soldiers. However, Evmen didn't give him the opportunity to regroup and pursued him. The two armies joined in yet another battle in the neighborhood of Isfahan, but the result was again a stalemate.

In January of the next year (316 BCE) a second battle took place near Gabae in the Iranian desert. This time, one of Evmen's satraps, Pevkest (lat. *Peucestes*) satrap of Persia, retreated from the battle line, and although Evmen stood his ground for some time, he was ultimately defeated.

Antigonus the 'One-eyed' and his son Demetrius, who won his spurs during this battle, wanted to spare Evmen. After all, the cause for which he had been fighting, the Macedonian royal house, had in the meantime disappeared. But, he was at the end executed.

This was the end of the Second Macedonian War. From now on, Antigonus I the 'One-eyed' was the undisputed master of Asia, and he behaved accordingly. He seized royal property; lured Ptolemy of Media to his court, had him executed, and appointed Seleuk Nikator as satrap; he reorganized the eastern part of the empire (although he had to admit that the Indus valley was lost to the Indian king Chandragupta Maurya); he appointed new satraps; and when he returned to Babylonia (spring 316 BCE), he treated his ally Seleuk as a mere subject.

Seleuk Nikator understood very well that the One-eyed Antigonus was striving for sole rule, and knew that this would not be the end of his own ambitions. He therefore fled to Ptolemy in Egypt. For the

new satrap of Babylonia was appointed another Peiton, the former satrap of the Indian satrapy of *Gandara*.

So, at the end of Second Macedonic War, the One-eyed Antigone ruled in Asia, Ptolemy in Egypt and Kasander in Macedonia. But not for long...

THE THIRD MACEDONIC WAR, 315–311 BCE

Therefore, the conflict between Antigon and Ptolem was nothing new, the old animosity was only postponed by the circumstances. Soon enough the Macedonian pharaon of Egypt, Ptolem I Sotir, was alarmed by the growth of the 'One-eyed' Antigon's power, knowing that he would be unable to retain the independence of Egypt against the united Macedonian forces of Asia. Thus, the Macedonic ruler of Egypt sent the messengers and warned Kasander in Macedonia, and Lizimah, the governor of Thrakia. In the autumn, the three men concluded a new alliance against the One-eyed Antigon, and sent him an ultimatum, which reached the undisputed Macedonic ruler of Asia in the winter of 316 BCE: all money had to be redistributed and he had to give up his conquests... Of course, a man who had in three years' time conquered everything between the Aegean Sea and Iran, was unwilling to obey. A new war broke out: the **Third Macedonic War** (spring 315 BCE).



Seeing the danger, the old and experienced Alexander's general, the 'One-eyed' Antigon, immediately took the initiative. He invaded Syria to secure Phoenicia with its naval resources, which were needed for anyone who had to invade the Aegean world or Egypt. In the summer, he laid siege to Tyre, which had become independent but was supported by Ptolem. The defenders withstood their enemies for a long time, which offered Seleuk, who now served as Ptolem's admiral, an opportunity to conquer Kipar (lat. *Cyprus*). He continued to the Aegean Sea, where he visited Miletus and the oracle of the Brankitsa (lat. *Branchidae*), which greeted him as 'king'.

At the same time, Antigon demanded from Kasander answers about Alexander's mother Olympia (who had already been murdered), his widow Roxane and his son, the young Alexander IV (who had not been seen in public for some time). Antigon allied himself to

Poliperh, who still controlled part of the Peloponnese and who would prevent Kasander's crossing to Asia; and finally, Antigon repeated the promise that Poliperh had made four years before: that the Peloponnesian city-states were to be 'free and autonomous'. This was an extremely clever move, because Ptolem, who wanted to act as protector of Peloponnesian city-states as well, was now forced to guarantee their freedom as well, and thus act against Kasander's ambitions. Antigon's final move against the ruler of Macedonia was the creation of a federation of the island states in the Aegean Sea (the *Nesiotic League*), which he could use when he attacked Kasander at home.

In November 315 BCE, the alliance with Poliperh paid off: the Peloponnese sided with Antigon. Kasander was almost defeated and opened negotiations. Before he could conclude a separate peace with Antigon, however, his allies Lizimah and Ptolem renewed their offer of assistance, and desperate Kasander decided to continue the struggle. The negotiations he enacted with Antigon also gave him some time, and when he wanted to invade Europe, the Kasander's ally Lizimah was ready for him, and Antigon's attack came to nothing.

In the meantime, Ptolem was gathering his forces. Although he lost the Tyre, he still had a large navy and decided to attack Cilicia (summer 312 BCE). At Gaza, his army was intercepted by Antigon's son Demetrij and his officers Peiton of Babylonia and Nearch, who were unable to overcome the ruler of Egypt (autumn 312 BCE). Ptolem proceeded to Syria, but when Antigon arrived, he returned home (winter 312/311 BCE), knowing that his forces were no match for the lord of Asia.



Above: **Nile mosaic depicting the Macedonian soldiers at the court of Ptolemy I Soter**

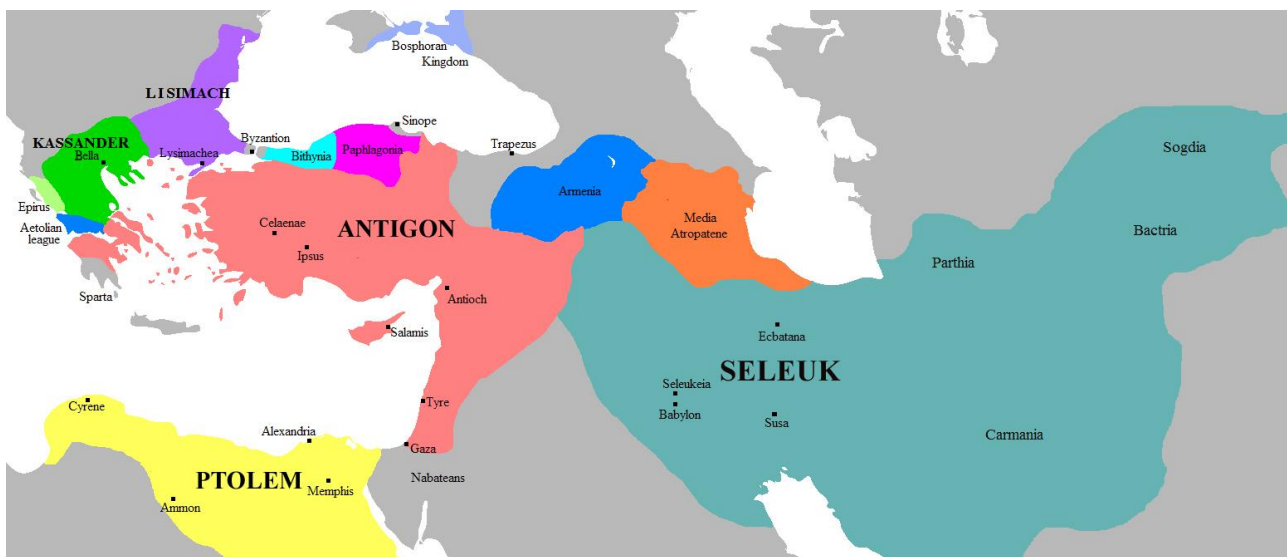
But, one of the commanders in Ptolem's army was Seleuk Nikator, the former satrap of Babylonia. While the forces of Ptolem were retreating, he took the units he commanded with and instead of marching back with Ptolem to Egypt, crossed the desert and advanced to Babylon, where he was again recognized as satrap on 1 June 311 BCE. Eager to regain his old satrapy and make it kingdom, Seleuk risked the ire of Antigon, his ex-commander in chief, against whom he already rebelled before. At that moment, Antigon made the greatest mistake of his life, by underestimating Seleuk's unexpected move. Although the consequences of this action were, at that time unclear, Seleuk turned out to be Antigon's nemesis.

By now, it had become clear that the 'One-eyed' Antigon and his son Demetrij could not defeat Ptolem, Lizimah, and Kasander in the near future. A Macedonic peace treaty was concluded in December. Ptolem and Lizimah were confirmed in their territories; Kasander and Antigon remained supreme commanders of the Macedonian forces in Europe and Asia; the Peloponnesian towns were recognized by all parties as 'free and autonomous', but nevertheless Macedonian garrisons remained

at several places; and it was agreed that the boy king Alexander IV, son of Alexander the Great and Roxane, would become sole ruler of the entire empire when he came of age, in 305 BCE.

The immediate tragic result of the treaty was, of course, that Roxane and the twelve-year old Alexander were killed by the reckless Kasander. This was the end of the Macedonian royal house of Aegeads (lat. *Argeads*)

In a letter to the Peloponnesian towns, Antigonus explained why he had not continued the war. He did not want it to last and wanted to put an end to the destruction of Peloponnesus. This was less hypocritical than it may sound: Antigonus wanted the Peloponnesian towns as allies, which was in the realm of the possible, and not as subjects, which was impossible. Another motive for him to sign this treaty was that in this way he had covered his back, and could attack Seleuk Nikator, whom he had by now recognized as a dangerous enemy.



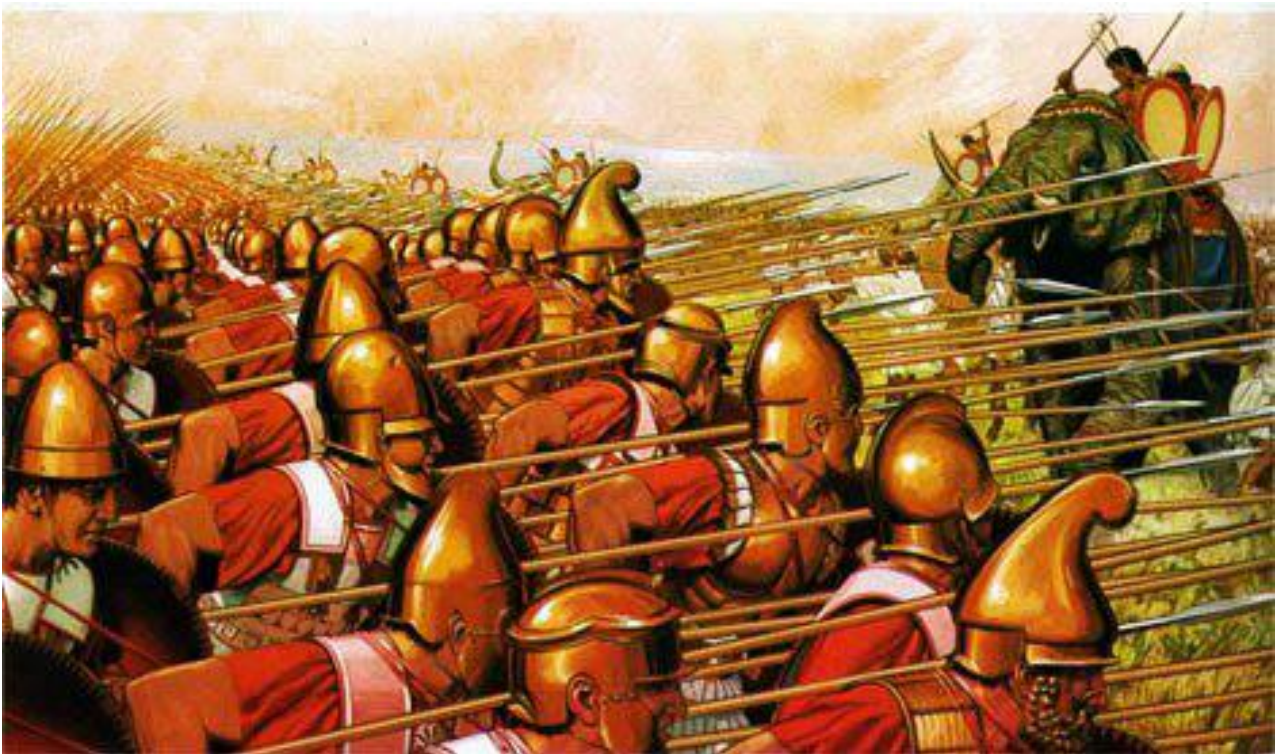
Above: **Macedonic kingdoms after the conclusion of the Third Macedonic War in 311 BCE**

THE 'FOUR YEARS PEACE' BETWEEN THE WARS

The peace treaty of 311 BCE did not inaugurate a true age of peace between the Macedonic kingdoms. On the contrary, every signatory had a secret agenda and used the “warless” years to rebuild and recruit new armies and prepare for war. However, the period of this uneasy “peace” lasted until 307 BCE.

First started Antigon the ‘One-eyed’, who used the truce to attack Seleuk, the self-appointed governor of Babylonia, who had not signed the treaty. He was threatened by Antigon from the very beginning, but showed himself as a capable opponent and wise ruler.

Seleuk' glorious return at Babylon, after he exiled in front of Antigon to Ptolem's Egypt, can be dated between 13 May and 1 June 311 BCE. Although there was some fighting in one of the citadels, Seleuk' assault on the world's largest city had been an easy success, which had been facilitated by the fact that Antigon' satrap of Babylon, Peiton, had died a few months earlier in the battle of Gaza. From the Babylonian Chronicles, we learn that Seleuk used a stratagem involving the water of river Euphrat, but the details remain unclear.



Almost immediately, the satrap of Media, Antigon's friend Nikanor, and the satrap of Aria, Igor (i.e. *Eagor*; lat. *Euaggores*), marched on Babylon, but Seleuk was waiting for them near the river Tigris. When Igor was killed during the battle, his men went over to Seleuk, and Nikanor was forced to retreat. Seleuk immediately took Nikanor's capital Ekbatana and enlisted all his soldiers in his own army. Then he marched to the south, where he captured Susa and added Elam to his possessions. Soon, Media was added too. In a half year's time, Seleuk returned to become a powerful ruler, and he gained the title *Nicator*, 'victor'.

He was still in Media when Demetrij (son of Antigon the ‘One-eyed’) arrived on the scene (early 310 BCE). By this time, the peace treaty on the west had been concluded, and Antigon could afford to send more soldiers to the east. The attackers started to besiege the two citadels of Babylon. When the first one was captured and looted, the main force left the city with the booty, leaving

Archelai as satrap to take the second citadel. Antigon didn't want to push on his son too much and Demetrij received orders to return. Seleuk immediately organized a guerilla war against Archelai.

In August 310, Antigon the 'One-eyed' himself arrived in Babylon. There were street-fights, but Antigon was unable to capture all buildings he wanted to take, and appears to have left the city in March 309 BCE, although the struggle in the countryside lasted until after 10 April 309 BCE – Babylonian New Year's day. During the summer, Antigon conducted punitive campaigns in the neighborhood, but Seleuk continued the guerilla warfare. The struggle had a devastating effect on the city and the countryside of Babylon. The commodity prices rose to incredible heights, as is recorded by the the author of the Babylonian Chronicle. Finally, Seleuk and Antigon met each other in a full-scale battle. According to the ancient author Polyaeus, Seleuk ordered his men to have breakfast during the night, and attacked before dawn. His enemies were hungry and unarmed, and Antigon the 'One-eyed' was forced to retreat back to Syria (30 or 31 August 309 BCE). The two parties must have concluded a peace treaty, because Seleuk proceeded to conquer the eastern satrapies. As Macedonian nobleman and formerly a member of Alexander's inner circle, he established himself in Babylonia. From Babylonia, Seleuk secured his rule over Media, Susiana, Elam and Persis, and then northern Iran and Central Asia (Baktria and Sogdiana), establishing the Hindu Kush as frontier with the Maurya Empire in northern India. We know next to nothing about the Seleuks eastern campaigns, only that he pacified the whole of the far east in less than 5 years.



Above: Eastern Satraps after the Alexander's conquest

Apparently he met with serious resistance only from Chandragupta Maurya in India. Finally, Seleuk made peace by marrying his daughter to king Chandragupta, whereupon he was rewarded a considerable force of 500 war elephants, which would play a decisive role against Antigon at the Battle of Ipsus in 301 BCE and against Lysimach at the Battle of Corupedium in 281 BCE.

In obtaining the support of Iranian aristocrats, who provided him and his successors with cavalry, Seleuk presumably profited from his marriage with Apama, the daughter of the late Sogdian leader Spitamenes who had once been Alexander's worst nightmare. Kinship diplomacy probably was the key to Seleuk's relations with the Iranian nobility, especially in the northeast. His victories were duly commemorated with a coin.

Antigon was no less active in the west, and he had every reason to return from Babylonia: Ptolem had added Kipar to his territories, and moved to the Aegean Sea, where he gained a bridgehead on the island Kos (winter 309/308 BCE). From there, he sailed to Delos, where he reorganized the *Nesiotic League*, which would support the ruler of Egypt.

First, Antigon who was now compelled to focus on the west, used a stratagem against Kasander. He sent the bastard son of Alexander the Great, named *Iracle*, and his mother Barsine, to Poliperh in the Peloponnese. The old general could use mother and son to raise support for a revolt against Kasander. However, Kasander convinced Polyperh to side with him, and the young man was mercilessly killed for no cause.

Ptolem then landed at Corinth, where he repeated his declaration that he supported the 'free and autonomous' Peloponnesian towns, a move that did little to endear him to Kasander, and, worse - he was considered hypocritical, because he made his support conditional on the financial contributions that he demanded. Understanding that he had made a mistake, he cut his losses, left Europe and retired to Egypt (early 308 BCE). Another reason may have been that by now, Antigons' army had arrived in Syria. It had been defeated by Seleuk, but was still powerful and dangerous. Therefore, Ptolem returned.

THE FOURTH MACEDONIC WAR 307-301 BCE

When the things looked like they're coming into their place – they became even more intricate. In 307 BCE, Antigon decided upon a show of strength in the Aegean. His son Demetrij, who had by now shown his valor as a warrior and chieftain, was sent to Peloponnesus: he brought the *Nesiotic League* under control again, and unexpectedly landed at Athens, where he was recognized as liberator and god (10 June 307 BCE). Kasander's garrisons and his governor Demetrij of Faleron were expelled, and the "democracy" was restored. The Athenians grab the opportunity and immediately started to rebuild their navy, which was to fight loyally with 'One-eyed' Antigon. It had been a masterstroke. Kasander had lost control of Peloponnesus and it took him four years to reorganize his own territories. He was unable to come to the support of Ptolem, who now had to bear the brunt of Antigon's assault. This was how the **Fourth Macedonic War** began.

In the spring of 306 BCE, Demetrij made an unopposed landing on Kipar (lat. *Cyprus*), one of the most important possessions of Ptolem. If he could capture the island, it would be a devastating blow to Ptolem's prestige. Kipar was defended by Ptolem's brother Menelai, who came out to fight the invader. He was defeated, and retired to the town Salamis, where Demetrij isolated him. However, Menelai had been able to ask his brother for reinforcements. The siege of Salamis lasted for some time, and the contemporaries were impressed by the size and number of Demetrij's siege machines; Alexander's famous sieges of Halikarnas and Tyre paled in comparison. However, the defenders resisted the assault and the town was not taken.



After some time, Ptolem arrived, and Demetrij found himself heavily outnumbered: he had some 15,000 men, Menelai and Ptolem together commanded 27,000 soldiers. However, in a naval battle off Salamis, he crushed Ptolem's fleet before it could come into help of Menelai' navy. His victory was total; Ptolem did not even gather his men when he made his shameful escape to Egypt. Seeing that he was abandoned and chanceless, Menelai surrendered.

In the summer of 306, Antigon and his son Demetrij were at the zenith of their power. However, the seeds of their downfall had been sown on the day when Seleuk had retaken Babylonia. Antigon remained focused on the west and ignored the east, which was a grave error of judgment, because the former Achaemenid empire, which Seleuk was slowly rebuilding, had once been a formidable opponent, and so would Seleuk' empire be.

After the naval battle off Salamis, Ptolem's realms were defenseless: his entire navy was lost. Seizing the opportunity, Antigon the 'One-eyed' marched toward Egypt with a very large army. He knew that Ptolem was not defeated yet and understood that he had to use as many soldiers as possible to ensure victory. The supplies were carried by his navy, commanded by Demetrij. His marines were to launch the first attack on Egypt. The plan was excellent, but the weather conditions were terrible: storms prevented the navy from approaching Egypt. Antigon's large army could no longer be fed, and it had to return. Ptolem was saved by miracle.

Although Antigon and Demetrij had lost Egypt, they had kept the initiative in the war. Ptolem was seriously weakened, Seleuk was occupied in the eastern satrapies, and Kasander had to restore order in Peloponnesus. A new attack on Ptolem seemed unwise and a war in the east was not Antigon' priority; therefore he decided to attack Kasander. As a preparation, Demetrij had to besiege Rhodes, a mercantile republic that possessed a large navy and controlled the entrance to the Aegean Sea. If Rhodes fell, Antigon and Demetrij could strike anywhere they wanted. Another reason to subdue the city-state was the fact that it could help Ptolem rebuilding his navy, something that Antigon wanted to prevent at all costs. The siege started in 305 BCE.

Again, Demetrij impressed the world with the size and quantity of his siege machines and the almost scientific approach on the citadel of Rhodes. One of his siege-towers was ten stories and 40 meters high, heavily armored and bristled with artillery. However, all his machines did not bring him victory: Rhodes was reinforced by Kasander and Lizimah and especially Ptolem. They knew that as long as Rhodes withstood Demetrij, they were safe. So, a relatively unimportant siege became one of the largest battle-fields in the Fourth Macedonic War.

The siege lasted one year and ended in a compromise. The Rhodians promised that they would be loyal to Antigon and Demetrij and would support them against all their enemies, except Ptolem. In the propaganda of Antigon, this was presented as a big victory, and Demetrij accepted the surname *Poliorket*, 'taker of cities'. Ptolem also received an additional name: he was called *Sotir*, the Savior. Thus ended the siege of Rhodes.

The policy of Antigon and Demetrij policy had been to leave towns ungarrisoned ('free and autonomous'), and so was Rhodes. During the next years, Demetrij was able to fight a war against Kasander in Europe; this had been Demetrij's aim, and he had achieved it. On the other hand, it could easier have been reached by diplomatic means.

In the autumn of 304 BCE, Demetrij went to Peloponnese, where Athens was besieged by Kasander. The Macedonian ruler was expelled and Demetrij continued to liberate the Peloponnesian towns. He won over Corinth and almost the entire Peloponnese. Then, he convened a meeting and organized a League of Peloponnesian cities in 303 BCE, like the one that had been founded by Alexander's father Filip II ('*Common Peace Treaty*' League). The towns were to be free and autonomous, Demetrij was to be their hegemon, and had the right to conscript soldiers.



At this point, in 302 BCE Kasander sued for peace. But Demetrij and Antigon had been very successful and were convinced that they could defeat Kasander. Therefore, they demanded unconditional surrender, which Kasander was unwilling to contemplate. He broke off the

negotiations and the war was resumed. Demetrij invaded Thessalia, where he and Kasander fought a war of nerves: the two armies built large camps and kept an eye on each other, but they did not join battle.

In the meantime, Kasander had urged his allies Ptolem of Egypt, Lisimah from Thrakia and Seleuk of Babylonia to come to his aid. The three men were now stronger than they had been before the Fourth Macedonic War broke out, and they promised to attack Antigon. These diplomatic movements made it impossible for Demetrij to attack in Thessalia. He concluded an armistice with Kasander, and returned to the east, the new theater of war. His camp in Thessalia became the new site of the city of *Halos*.

Antigon now concentrated his armies in what is now Turkey, because Lisimah had invaded this part of Antigon's kingdom. This was a big surprise, because Lisimah had been the weakest of Antigon's enemies: as king of Thrakia, he still had to fight the Thrakians, Gaetae and Tribalians, and during the last twenty years, he had won as many victories as he had suffered defeats. Nobody expected that of all persons Lisimah would attack the powerful Antigon and his son.

But he had a large war-fund, accepted several units of the army of Kasander, invaded Asia, overran the west coast, and captured Sardes and Ephes, two very rich cities. Antigon hurried to the west, Demetrij arrived from Peloponnese, and Lizimah was trapped between two armies (summer 302 BCE). Kasander sent him reinforcements, but Demetrij's navy intercepted them. However, Lisimah was able to postpone a large scale battle, hoping that there would be reinforcements.

In the winter of 301 BCE, they seemed to arrive, when Ptolem invaded Syria, but he turned back when he received a false report that Antigon had been victorious. Antigon and Demetrij were now preparing for a decisive blow against Lizimah and the invasion of Europe. They isolated their opponent near Ipsus in Phrygia.

At that moment, however, Seleuk arrived from the east. He had been fighting in Bactria for more than six years, had conquered all eastern satrapies (in 307 BCE), and had concluded a peace treaty with the Indian king Chandragupta Maurya (in 304 BCE), who had occupied the Indus valley. Seleuk had given these territories to him, and had received a large number of war elephants (500 according to sources). Now, he was returning to the west. Antigon had tried to prevent his arrival by sending an army to Babylonia, but Seleuk had simply ignored it, knowing that the decisive battle was to take place in Phrygia.

So, he suddenly appeared at Ipsus, and immediately sided with Lizimah. They together had an estimated 64,000 infantry soldiers, 10,500 cavalry men and 480 war elephants, while the father and the son on the other side displayed 70,000 infantry soldiers, 10,000 cavalry men, but only 70 war elephants. It is not exactly clear what happened, but it is certain that Demetrij, who commanded Antigon's cavalry, drove back his opponents and pursued them, leaving one wing of his father's infantry unprotected and an easy target for the elephants. Seleuk's forces spotted this gap and decided the outcome of the battle. The 'One-eyed' Antigon was killed by a rain of spears and arrows. His son Demetrij managed to escape with a small force. Lizimah and Seleuk now had to divide the kingdom of Antigon, and had to deal with one more competitor, Ptolem.



The significance of the Battle of Ipsus, in which Antigone the 'One-eyed' and Demetrius Poliorcetes were defeated, is that from now on the possibility for unification of Alexander's empire was forever lost. The victors immediately divided the Asian territories of Antigone: Lysimachus took large parts of Asia Minor, although the southern parts (Lycia and Cilicia) were given to a brother of Cassander, Ptolemy. Seleucus received Syria, Phoenicia and Palestine, but discovered that large parts were in the meantime occupied by Ptolemy. They would be a major bone of contention between the Seleucid and Ptolemaic dynasty in the third century. Finally, northern Cappadocia was awarded to a man named Ariarathes, and became a satellite of the Seleucid Empire.

By now, three large states were in the making: Ptolemy's Egypt, with an annex in Syria; Seleucus' Asia; and Lysimachus' Europe, which now included a part of Asia Minor. However, there was one disturbing element, Demetrius. He had escaped from Ipsus and still controlled large parts of the Peloponnese. But his popularity had diminished, because he had conscripted many men from the member states of the Peloponnesian city-states League. On the other hand, he still commanded a large navy and was master of the *Nesiotic League* and Cyprus (lat. *Cyprus*). He turned into some sort of pirate king.

Cassander and Lysimachus had reason to fear the presence of the man in the region, and Ptolemy's Phoenicia lay dangerously exposed to his attacks. The three men concluded a treaty, which was confirmed by marriage (300 BCE): Ptolemy's daughter Arsinoe II was married to Lysimachus, and Lysandra was given to Lysimachus' son Agathocles. Another reason for this alliance may have been Ptolemy's fear that Seleucus would try to drive him out of Syria, Phoenicia, and Palestine. The new king of Asia was already building new cities (like Seleucia and Antioch).

Seleucus had nothing to fear from Demetrius, but understood that Ptolemy was preparing a war. He now allied himself to Demetrius and married his daughter Stratonice (299 BCE). Demetrius was now

sufficiently covered, and expelled Kasander's brother from Lycia and Cilicia (298 BCE). At the same time, Seleuk raided Samaria in Palestine. Kasander was dying and could not intervene, and Ptolem was so impressed by Demetrij and Seleuk, that he accepted a treaty.

Meanwhile, the Peloponnesian towns had forgotten their alliance with Demetrij. For example, Athens had concluded a peace treaty with Kasander. This offered Demetrij a pretext to intervene in Peloponese, and in 296 BCE he started to besiege Athens, which surrendered in 295 BCE. This time, the conqueror had lost his patience: there was no 'freedom and autonomy' for the town, but he put there not one, not two, but three garrisons. He continued to the Peloponnese, where he reestablished his power in 294 BCE.

The real object of Demetrij' return to Europe, however, was not Peloponnesus, but Macedonia. In 298 BCE Kasander had died. Only a few people mourned for the man who had provoked the Second Macedonic War, massacred the Macedonian royal house, and garrisoned the Peloponnesian cities. He was succeeded by his son Filip IV, who died within two months (of natural causes). His two brothers now divided the kingdom: Antipater II received the western and Alexander V the eastern half (the river Axios⁵ being the border). As was to be expected, they immediately started to quarrel. Alexander felt threatened, and in 294 BCE invited two men to come to his assistance: Demetrij and Pyr (lat. *Pyrrhus*), a prince who had been made king of Epirus by a coup that had been financed by Ptolem (297 BCE).

Pyr was the first to intervene. In 294 BCE, he invaded Macedonia, restored the balance of power between the two brothers, and received Ambracia, a town on the Ionian Sea that had been occupied by the Macedonians, in return. It became the new capital of Epirus.

By now, Demetrij had returned from the Peloponnese and was entering Macedonia. King Alexander went out to greet him and thank him (for nothing), and tried to kill his powerful neighbor. However, Demetrij discovered the plan, and had instead Alexander killed. Almost immediately, the Macedonian army proclaimed Demetrij king. He went on to attack the second brother, Antipater II, who fled to Lizimah.

However, Demetrij had to pay for his success. He had given up positions in Asia, which were immediately seized by Lizimah, Seleuk, and Ptolem. The first one helped himself to the towns on the west coast of what is now called Turkey, the second one seized large parts of Cilicia, and the third one occupied Kipar, Lycia and eastern Cilicia (291-287 BCE). Demetrij did not really care, and conquered the remaining parts of Peloponnesus. The only parts that he did not possess were Sparta in the south and Aetolia in the west.

When Demetrij invaded the last-mentioned country, Pyr came to the help of the Aetolians and defeated one of the enemy's generals. However, when he decided that he was now strong enough to invade Macedonia, he was defeated (289 BCE). In the last weeks of the year, the two kings signed a peace treaty.

Although Demetrij' kingdom was smaller than that of Lizimah, Ptolem or Seleuk, he was the strongest of the four monarchs: his army was of the size of that of the kings Filip II and Alexander the Great, and his navy was stronger. Moreover, he could count on the Peloponnesian towns. As usual, power provoked resistance, and his three competitors allied themselves against Demetrij, and agreed to attack him, to prevent an attack by him. Ptolem would send his navy into the Aegean Sea,

⁵ Since in the Latin there's no other etymological sense linked to this name, the only plausible explanation of the *Interpretatio Latina* of the earlier Koine term *Axos* (ἄξος) - tree or timber, which explains perfectly the widely known status of the ancient Macedonian kingdom as the primary supplier of the Aegean coastal cities with the ship-building material, i.e. wood, that was shipped to the Thermaic Gulf along the river Vardar. Hence the corrupted Koine-Latin name of *Axius* for this river (Vardar or 'Bardarios').

and Lizimah was to invade Macedonia, together with Pyr. Seleuk, whose territories did not border on Demetrij', gave moral support.

At this moment, the Macedonians revolted against their king (288 BCE). It is not exactly clear why, but it is tempting to suppose that they were shocked by Demetrij' oriental court and the forced conscription, which must have been a disappointment after the quiet last years of Kasander.

The revolt must have broken Demetrij, who knew that he would lose his kingdom if he stayed in Macedonia. Therefore, he installed his son Antigon Gonat as governor of Peloponnese, and decided to launch an all-out attack on the east. It was a desperate gamble, but he hoped to defeat the troops of Lizimah in Asia Minor, which would force him to look to the east instead of Macedonia. If Demetrij could also defeat Seleuk, he could break through to the eastern satrapies, gather troops, and come back with a large force. Previously, during the Second Macedonic War, Evmen had done the same, and had caused a lot of trouble to the 'One-eyed' Antigon.

The first stage of this campaign was a success: his navy expelled the fleet of Ptolem out of the Aegean Sea, and Demetrij made an unopposed landing in Asia, where he captured important towns



like Milet and Sardes (287 BCE). Now, he emulated Alexander and started his march against the king of Asia. However, his soldiers, who won a victory over Seleuk in Cilicia, felt that they were expatriated (again) under false pretenses, and became disobedient. Even worse, Lisimah's general, his son Agatokle, dogged Demetrij' army. Late in 286 BCE, most of his men deserted him, and ultimately, Demetrij was forced to surrender.

He was taken captive by Seleuk and treated kindly. His host may have wanted to use his father-in-law as a tool against Lizimah, but Demetrij was unable to wait. The last of the generation of warrior kings drank himself to death (283 BCE). The future was predisposed for the more stable monarchies of Ptolemies and Seleukids. But his immediate inheritance was a war between Lizimah and Pyr: who was to succeed him as king in Macedonia?

The removal of Demetrij Poliorcet from the scene in 285 BCE stabilized the situation. It was becoming increasingly clear that there would be three major states: the empire of Ptolem in Egypt and southern Syria, the empire of Seleuk in Asia, and the European kingdom of Lizimah in Macedonia with Thrakia and Peloponnese.

Lizimah benefited most of the fall of Demetrij. In the summer of 287 BCE, when Demetrij had invaded Asia, Lizimah and Pyr of Epirus had occupied northern and western Macedonia. The only one who might have been able to stop them would have been Ptolem of Egypt, who possessed several towns in the Aegean Sea region (he had captured Athens in the spring). But Ptolem I Sotir was by now an old man, and he was already thinking of resigning. He had two sons, Ptolem Keran (lat. *Ptolem Cerraunus*) and Ptolem Filadelf (lat. *Ptolem Philadelphus*), and it had always been clear that Keraun was to succeed him. However, he was by now preferring Filadelf. Court intrigues handicapped father Ptolem's Aegean policy, and Lizimah could continue to build up his power.

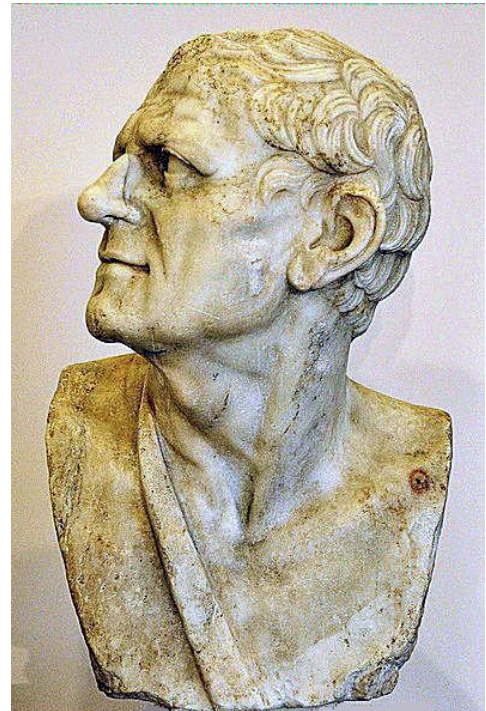
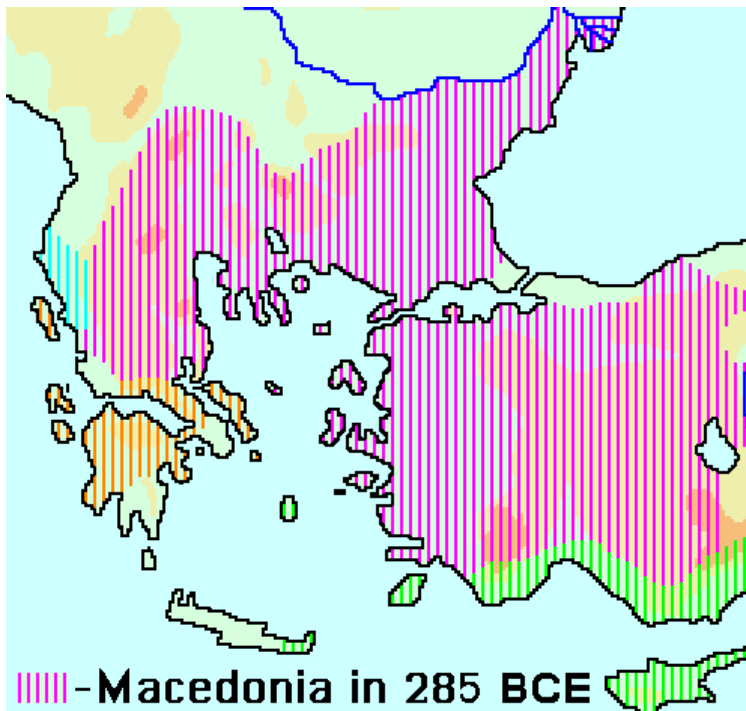
In 286 BCE, Lizimah's son Agatokle was fighting in Asia Minor against Demetrij, and his father was busy reorganizing his territories in Macedonia. At the same time, Pyr of Epirus invaded Thessalia, which had until then remained loyal to Demetrij and his son Antigon II Gonat. There may have been some degree of coordination with the Athenians, who attacked his garrison in Piraeus and liberated themselves. After the death of Demetrij Macedonia underwent another crisis and allowed the weak Aetolian League to push as far as Phthiotis, pressing the leaders there to join the league. The changeover of Macedonian monarch had prompted an eclipse in their regional influence in the past, so the Aetolians could expect it to be the case this time again. Surely, this is probably not the only answer to the question of why the Aetolians, who seemed to have so much to lose, did so much to bring on war with so many of their neighbours.

Gonat was now reduced to the Peloponnese, and concluded a peace treaty with Pyr, in which he ceded all Thessalia in return for the unchallenged possession of the port of Demetria. A bigger disappointment must have come later in the same year, when Antigon Gonat learned that his father had been taken captive by Seleuk.

Now that Demetrij was removed, the allies Pyr and Lizimah started to quarrel (285 BCE). At the same time, Ptolem retired and gave the throne to Ptolem Filadelf. His older son, Ptolem Keran, rebelled and fled to Seleuk, who promised to restore him on the throne of Egypt. Within a few months after the capture of Demetrij, the alliance that had been organized against him, had disappeared, and a new round of wars seemed inevitable.

The first to strike was Lizimah, who was frustrated by Pyr attacks on Thessalia. He did not offer battle, but bought Pyr' commanders, made diplomatic overtures, and in the summer, the king of Epirus had to return to his homeland. Southern Macedonia and Thessalia were now part of Lizimah's empire, which stretched from Thermopylae to the Danube and from the Ionian Sea to the river Halys in Asia Minor.

However, Lizimah' Macedonian empire was fragile, although in Thrakia his rule was unchallenged. He had ruled the country since the settlement at Babylon in 323 BCE, thirty-eight years ago. But the other territories were new acquisitions: the eastern provinces had been occupied 15 years ago, and the proper Macedonia, with its strong feeling of independence and great past, was a very recent addition to his realm. There were strong resentments among the Macedonians against the "Thrakian king", despite the fact that he was Macedonian too, and one small accident could've disrupt the delicate balance.



Above: **Kingdom of Macedonia under rule of Lizimah (right) in 285 BCE**

This incident happened in the first weeks of 282 BCE. And once again was provoked in the well known manner of Macedonian traditions: it will be remembered that Lizimah first had married Nicaea, the daughter of Antipater, in 321 BCE. They had a son, Agatokle (lat. *Agathocle*), Lizimah' trusted right-hand man and the one who was appointed as successor. In 299 BCE, both men had married the two daughters of Ptolem II Sotir: Lizimah had taken Arsinoe as his wife, and his son Agatokle had married Lysandra. Now Arsinoe, seeing that she and her children would become subjects of her stepson and her sister, decided to blacken Agatokle's reputation, so that her own son would become king.

At least, this is what ancient sources say. It should however be noted that Demetrij was by now dead and that the first Ptolem had died in January 282 BCE. It is possible that political motives also played a role, and it is likely that Agatokle was not entirely blameless. But whatever the reasons, Agatokle was killed by his father.

Immediately, Agatokle's wife Lysandra with her son fled to Seleuk, who was at that moment in Babylonia. They asked him to come to their assistance. This was an offer Seleuk couldn't refuse: he could rightfully intervene in Thrakia - where he could place the son of Lysandra and Agatokle on the throne, and he could also intervene in Egypt, where he could place Ptolem Keran on the throne. The thought that he could also place himself on the two thrones may have crossed his mind.

In the winter of 282/281 BCE, he invaded Lizimah's Asian possessions. He was a prudent man: before he set out, he had already appointed his son Antioch as his successor. According to the eastern custom, Antioch took over his father's wife (Stratonice I, the daughter of Demetrij), and he was made ruler of the eastern satrapies - as once the Persian crown prince, the mathišta, had been.

The army of the seventy-seven years old Seleuk met the army of eighty years old Lizimah at Corupedium, in the west of Asia Minor, in February 281 BCE. By the end of the day, Lizimah was dead. He had already built his tomb at Belevi near Efes (lat. *Ephesus*), but was never buried in this mausoleum.

Seleuk proceeded to the west, where nothing could prevent him from adding Thrakia and Macedonia to his empire. However, he was assassinated by Ptolem II Keran. It is likely that Seleuk had secret intentions to unite the empire of Alexander under his rule, and did not want to give Keran and the son of Lysandra their shares. Ptolem II Keran, eager to have his own kingdom, couldn't possibly had a minimal chance beside the Seleuk's Asian empire, where also his son Antioch was already enthroned, but the kingdom of Lizimah was at the rich of the hand and he grab the opportunity in a glance. Thus ended the life of Seleuk.

In a few year's time, the four main players of the war-game of Macedonic state building had all died: Demetrij in 283 BCE, Ptolem in 282 BCE, Lizimah and Seleuk in 281 BCE. Their kingdoms had stabilized, and the men were succeeded by their sons: Antigone II Gonat in Peloponnese, Ptolem II Filadelf in Egypt, and Antioch in Asia. Lizimah' empire was the exception: not his son but Ptolem II Keran became king.

Although Ptolem II Filadelf and Antioch immediately started a war, its impact was limited: the Macedonic pharaon of Egypt merely benefitted from the crisis in the Seleukid empire after the death of its founder. When he had taken Damasc and noted that Antioch was as powerful as his father - an armistice was concluded. Antioch accepted the defeat because he needed all his energy to organize the conquests in what is now Turkey. The First Syrian War had lasted less than twelve months (280-279 BCE).

THE MACEDONIC WARS AFTERMATH, GAULIC INVASIONS

The situation now seemed quiet. But there was to be one border correction and dynastic change. Ptolem II Keran, who became king of Macedon and Thracia in rather defamatory way, was about to be removed. But not from other Macedonic kings of his kin – the Gaulic tribes had arrived in the lower Danube regions and were heading south...

The kingdom of Lizimah had been a kind of buffer zone between on the one hand the civilized world of Macedonia and Asia Minor and on the other hand the barbarian tribes of the north. The king had known how to cope with them: he had understood that, when one tribe became dangerous, he had to negotiate with its neighbors - in other words, during the almost forty years of his reign, he had learned to maintain a balance of power in what is now Bulgaria and Serbia.

But, Lizimah had been killed during the battle of Corupedium, and his successor Seleuk, who had learned the same game in dealing with the tribes in Central-Asia, had been murdered a few months later. His official successor was Antioch, who had spent much time in the eastern satrapies and knew how to deal with the barbarian tribes as well. The man who succeeded Lizimah in Europe knew nothing of customs of the 'barbarians': Ptolem II Keran, who had been educated in Egypt. And there was no time to learn it, because he was confronted with a larger threat than Lizimah, Seleuk or Antioch had ever had to cope with.



The Gauls are considered by the modern scholars to be the descendants of the post-ice age Paleolithic hunter-gatherers of the so called '*Magdalenian*' and/or '*La Tene Culture*' of central Europe. The truth is the other way out - they were the first Neolithic explorers with origin in the Macedonian peninsula who adventured in the post Ice Age European steppes. The latest Genetic,

Anthropologic and other researches confirmed their origins from the Balkans.⁶ The autochthonous Aryan nature of these people was undoubtedly confirmed by the recent Genetic researches. Geneticists, studying the human DNA note that a Y-Chromosome genetic marker which they named, according to Y Chromosome Consortium, Haplogroup R1a1 (HG3 according to Rosser 2000 nomenclature) is the most common among the Macedonic populations in Europe and Indo-Aryans in India, at 47% and 30% respectively. If we do the math, using the published statistics, we see that in Europe 61 million Macedonic speaking males have this genetic marker, but on the Indian sub-continent, the number is almost four times higher, at 240 million males.

Some may argue that this genetic and linguistic affinity is due to the more recent arrival of the Vedic Aryans from India into Central Europe, Eastern Europe and to the Macedonian peninsula. However, such a recent migration from the Southeast Asia, would have also picked up and brought a Finno-Ugric genetic marker Haplogroup N3 (HG16 of Rosser's nomenclature) to the Macedonian peninsula, since it is widely distributed in Russia and Ukraine - between the Black Sea and the Baltic Sea (Rosser et al. 2000). But that's not the case. Hg N3 genetic marker has not been found either south of the Carpathian Mountains, central Europe nor in the Macedonian peninsula. More than 20,000 years old Paleolithic Haplgroup Hg I genetic marker was found instead. The highest frequencies of this even older gene have been found in the Macedonian peninsula, and is a likely signature of a prehistoric population flourishing after the Last Glacial Maximum (Marjanović et al. 2005, Perićić et al. 2005). This indicates that the nucleus of the Macedonic populations carrying the Hg R1a1 have been present in the Macedonian peninsula from at least 10,000 years ago, long before the Finno-Ugric population spread into Northeastern Europe, Russia and Ukraine.



⁶ The Autochthonous-Continuity historiographic model is undoubtedly accurate and supported by scientific evidence.

In the 5th and 4th millennium BCE, they expanded to the north, east and west into the countries where they developed a language groups that modern scholars call 'Gaulic'. The term actually originated from Macedonian language, where the word 'gōl' ('Gaul')⁷ - naked, was used to describe all these barbarians who had the usance to fight naked or half-naked, i.e. 'gōli'[plural], displaying their appalling injuries and their total contempt for death. Modern scholars have twisted and misused the word 'Gaul' (corrupted through Latin transcription) to describe all the supposed *Magdalenian/La Tene* people, even if they didn't live in the west and did not speak a modern 'Gaulic' languages. Different tribes were called *Gaulic*, which had for the result that people immediately understand that the *Gauls* were savages. Although *Gaul* as we know it from modern conventional history is approximately modern-day France, 2300 years ago the "*Gauls*", as they were perceived by the Macedonians, lived across northern Europe.

Pushed by other Mongolo-Germanic tribes from northeast, these Gaul communities gradually penetrated south of Danube, in what became the evergrowing threat for Macedonia, Thrakia and other regions in Macedonian peninsula. The first warning of the gathering storm arrived at the Macedonian court in the form of ambassadors from the neighboring Dardani tribe who reported a massive Gaul army approaching from the north. To make a point on the gravity of the situation Dardanians offered to the Macedonian king 20,000 warriors to help the Macedonian falankas against the Gaul advance. But the arrogant Macedonian king Ptolem II Keran laughed the ambassadors, boasting that as successors of Filip II and Alexander, the Macedonians who „*had been victorious throughout the world*“ required no help from 'barbarians'. Opportunist as he was, by refusing to come to the aid of the Dardani, Keran hoped to 'kill two birds with one stone', presuming that the resulting battle between the Dardani and the Gaul would weaken both tribes to such an extent that neither would subsequently present a threat to Macedonia.

If Ptolem Keran considered carefully the odds, he might have seen that the force of 20,000 offered by the Dardani was by any means a truly large army, and the fact that they knew it would not be enough to stop the Gaul advance without Macedonian help illustrates that the advancing army of Gauls massively outnumbered them. In any way Macedonian king Ptolem made his first and last fatal miscalculation when he refused their offer... Wisely, the Dardani did not try to stop the Gauls. Instead many joined them, and as they advanced toward Macedonia, the Gaul army of roughly 60,000 was now reinforced by 10,000 or more Dardanians, Denteleti and Authariati (neighboring tribes). Ptolem Keraun was no match for the Gaul-barbarian avalanche. In the spring of 279 BCE, they invaded Macedonia, and in a pitiful battle Ptolem II Keran was captured and decapitated.

Due to this terrifying blow, for two years Macedonia had no central government: three men were offered the crown, but two of them were immediately dethroned. The third one, a nobleman named *Sosten*, accepted the Macedonian crown and organized the Macedonian armies which again fought successfully the Gauls and halted their devastating raids. He managed to stop the Gaul tide and defeat them decisively at Delphi in 279 BCE. The survived Gauls retreat toward north with their plunder, but were decimated along their path. After this success *Sosten* self-willingly refused the supreme power and abdicated from the Macedonian throne. Fortunately, the Gauls were unable to besiege towns, so, the city-dwellers were safe.

But this encouraged another Gaulic leader, called Bren (lat. *Brennuss*) in ancient sources, to try his chances. Because the Macedonia countryside was now deserted, he decided to invade further south in 279/278 BCE. He reached so far as Thermopylae, where he encountered the Macedonian falanks of the king Antigone II Gonat. Macedonians failed once again to reject the tide of Gaulic marauders and the pass of Thermopylae was overrun. Bren could invade central Peloponnesus. He decided to raid Delphi and seems to have entered the sanctuary. But a thunderstorm and early snow forced him

⁷ 'Gaul' - naked, from Macedonian 'gōl' (Cyrilic: гол).

to return. The Gauls suffered heavy losses (?), Bren committed suicide, and the Macedonians thought that the god Apollo had defeated the Gauls in person.



At the same time, a third group of Gauls invaded Thrakia. They were again very successful and were even able to cross to Asia Minor. Thrakia was now in a state of anarchy and in 277 BCE, Antigon Gonat decided to retake its capital *Lizimahia* on the Hellespont. During his campaign he encountered there a group of Gauls and defeated them. This success gave him sufficient credit to become king of Macedonia with Thrakia and Peloponnese. The only undefeated group of Gauls that left was still in Asia Minor. It is said that the region *Galatia* was named by them. For some time, nobody dared to resist them, until Antioch was able to defeat them with his elephants in 275 BCE (for which he was entitled *Sotir*, 'savior'). Nevertheless, he employed the rest of them as mercenaries in his army, which proved to be his biggest mistake - not much later Antioch was murdered by them.

The Macedonic Wars of Succession were by no means an exception in terms of Gaulic participation, Macedonian army continued to make a use of substantial numbers of Gaul mercenaries. It showed that employing Gaulic mercenaries was a double edged sword. Indispensable as organic in every great army of the late antiquity, they were totally incompetent to substitute the Macedonic military organization or any other system of centralized administration. They were quick to enter the service of any ruler who could pay them, and fearless in battle, but ultimately, as many kings and generals discovered to their own cost, the Gauls served no masters but themselves.

277/275 BCE marked the end of the Gaul invasion. Its significance was that Macedonia had found a new powerful king – Antigon II Gonat. From now on, Alexander's empire was divided into three parts with strong dynasties: the Seleukid empire in Asia, the Ptolemaic empire of Egypt and southern Syria, and Antigonid empire in Macedonia with Thrakia and Peloponnesus. Although they were sometimes at war with each other - the Ptolemies and the Seleukids fought several wars - they

recognized each other. An equilibrium now existed, and remained intact for more than a century, when a new superpower entered the historical arena: Rome.



Timeline:

- 323 B.C.E. - The death of Alexander III of Macedon in Babylon
----- Outbreak of the Lamian War
----- Antipater in Lamia besieged by Athenian-Thessalian-Aetolian rebels
----- Conference of Babylon: Regency under Perdika, Antipater, and Krater
----- Birth of Alexander IV and joint rule with Filip III Aridei
- 322 B.C.E. - Perdika invades Cappadocia; Antigon I 'One-eyed' flees to Macedonia
----- Leonnat is slain while besieging Antipater in Lamia
----- Battle of Crannon: Krater and Antipater crush rebels
----- Antipater offers marriage-alliances to Krater, Ptolem, and Perdika
----- Outbreak of the first Civil War: Perdika and Evmen of Kardia (championing royal family) against Antipater, Antigon I, Krater and Ptolem
- 321 B.C.E. - Perdika invades Egypt to defeat Ptolem
----- Murder of Perdika in Egypt; Seleuk declared governor of Babylon
----- Evmen defeats and slays Krater in Asia Minor
----- Conference of Triparadisus: Antipater declared regent of the empire and takes custody of Kings Filip III Aridei and Alexander IV
- 320 B.C.E. - Antigon clears Asia Minor of Perdika's forces
----- Evmen besieged in Nora in Cappadocia
- 319 B.C.E. - Death of Antipater; Polyperh new regent of the empire
----- Ptolem occupies Coele-Syria; Kasander invades Peloponnesus
----- War between Polyperh and Evmen (championing royal family) against Ptolem, Kasander and Antigon
- 318 B.C.E. - Battle of Megalopolis: Kasander defeats Polyperh and overruns Macedonia and Peloponnesus
----- Kasander besieges Athens
----- Evmen with Silver Shields invades Voinikia (lat. *Phoenicia*), then withdraws eastward
----- Antigon pursues Evmen east (319–316 B.C.E.)
- 317 B.C.E. - Athens surrenders to Kasander
----- Demetrij of Phalerum installed as tyrant of Athens
----- Polyperh, reduced to Peloponnesus, declares "Freedom of the Peloponnesian towns"
----- Olympias invades Macedon; "suicide" of Filip III and Evridika
----- Kasander beseiges Olympia in Pydna
----- Evmen defeats Antigon in Media
- 316 B.C.E. - Kasander takes Pydna; Olympias executed
----- Kasander master of Macedon and Peloponnesus
----- Battle of Gabiene: Evmen betrayed to Antigon
----- Execution of Evmen
- 315 B.C.E. - Flight of Seleuk from Babylon to Ptolem
----- Antigon supreme ruler in the east and reorganizes the Upper Satrapies
----- War between Antigon and Demetrius vs Ptolem, Kasander, and Lizimah
----- Siege of Tyre (315–314 B.C.E.)
----- Antigon declares "Freedom of the Peloponnesian towns" and organizes *Nesotic League*
- 314 B.C.E. - Tyre surrenders to Antigon the 'One-eyed'
----- Polyperh raises Peloponesian towns on behalf of Antigon
- 313 B.C.E. - Ptolem moves his capital to Alexandria
- 312 B.C.E. - Ptolem invades Coele-Syria; battle of Gaza
----- Seleuk retakes Babylon

311 B.C.E. - Truce between Antigon and the allies Ptolem, Lizimah, and Kasander
----- War of Antigon against Seleuk
----- Seleuk founds Seleukia ad Tigrim and consolidates his rule in Iran (311–308 B.C.E.)

310 B.C.E. - Kasander murders Alexander IV and Roxane: end of Aegead family
----- Ptolem annexes Kipar (lat. *Cyprus*)
----- Outbreak of war between the ‘One-eyed’ Antigon and Ptolem

309 B.C.E. - Reconciliation between Kasander and Polyperh
----- Kasander king in Macedon and Peloponnese
----- Reconciliation between Ptolem and Demetrij
----- Reconciliation between Antigon and Seleuk

308 B.C.E. - Ptolem intervenes in Peloponnese against Kasander
----- Ptolemaic forces seize Corinth and Sicyon
----- Ptolem declares “Freedom of the Peloponnesian towns”, on payment
----- Ptolem withdraws to Egypt

307 B.C.E. - Demetrij Poliorket invades Peloponnesus
----- Demetrij restores Athenian "democracy" and expels Demetrij of Falerum
----- General war in Peloponnesus

306 B.C.E. - Battle of Salamis: Demetrij defeats Ptolem
----- Antigonid annexation of Kipar (lat. *Cyprus*)
----- Antigon and Demetrij take title king (BACIAEBC; lat. *Vasilevs*)
----- Failure of Antigon’s invasion of Egypt (fall)

305 B.C.E. - Demetrij besieges Rhodes (305–304 B.C.E.)
----- War between Seleuk and Čandragupta (305–303 B.C.E.)
----- Ptolem, Kasander, and Lizimah assume title king

303 B.C.E. - Demetrius drives Kasander out of Peloponnesus
----- Treaty between Seleuk and Čandragupta, Seleuk surrenders Indus valley for 500 elephants

302 B.C.E. - Ptolem, Lizimah, Seleuk, and Kasander renew grand alliance against Antigon and Demetrij
----- Demetrij restores Corinthian League
----- Lizimah invades Asia Minor

301 B.C.E. - Battle of Ipsus: defeat and death of Antigonus
----- Partition of Alexander’s Empire
----- Kasander supreme ruler in Macedonia and Peloponnesus
----- Lizimah occupies Western Asia Minor and refounds Efes
----- Seleuk secures Upper Satrapies and founds Antioch in Syria as new capital
----- Ptolem illegally annexes Coele-Syria

300 B.C.E. - Marriage alliance between Ptolem and Lisimah

299 B.C.E. - Marriage alliance between Seleuk and Demetrij

298/7 B.C.E. - Death of Kasander and then his son Filip IV

297/6 B.C.E. - Zipoet declares himself King of Bithynia
----- Civil war in Macedonia between Antipater IV and Alexander V

296 B.C.E. - Demetrij invades Peloponnesus

295 B.C.E. - Great siege of Athens (295–294 B.C.E.) by Demetrij

294 B.C.E. - Surrender of Athens and Imposition of Oligarchy
----- Ptolem occupies Kipar (lat. *Cyprus*); Seleuk takes Cilicia
----- Lizimah annexes the Ionian cities
----- Demetrij Poliorket king in Macedonia
----- Seleuk invests Antioch I with co-regency and rule of the “Upper Satrapies” from Babylon

293 B.C.E. - Demetrij founds Demetria in Thessaly

----- Getae defeats and temporarily captures Lizimah
 292 B.C.E. - Revolt in Boeotia
 ----- Outbreak of war between Demetrij and Pyr, king of Epirus
 ----- Demetrij invades Aetolia, allied to Pyr
 291 B.C.E. - Pyr obtains Corcyra as dowry from Agatokle of Syracuse
 ----- Ptolem secures Nesiotic League in central Aegean Sea
 288/7 B.C.E. - Invasion and partition of Macedon between Pyr and Lizimah
 ----- Ptolem annexes Tyre and Sidon from Demetrij
 287 B.C.E. - Athens revolts; restoration of the Athenian "democracy"
 ----- Demetrij invades Asia Minor, capturing Efes and Sardes, and advances east into Cilicia
 ----- Antigon II Gonat new regent in Europe
 286 B.C.E. - Anabasis of Demetrij and his surrender to Seleuk
 285 B.C.E. - Lizimah expels Pyr from Western Macedonia
 ----- Lizimah controls Macedonia, Thrakia, Peloponnesus and Asia Minor
 ----- Ptolem II Filadelf created co-king aside Ptolem I Sotir
 ----- Ptolem II Keran joins court of Lizimah
 284/3 B.C.E. - Dynastic crisis at court of Lizimah
 ----- Arrest and execution of Agatokle
 283 B.C.E. - Deaths of Demetrij I Poliorket and Ptolem I Sotir
 282 B.C.E. - Seleuk invades Asia Minor (late summer)
 281 B.C.E. - Battle of Corupedium: defeat and death of Lizimah
 ----- Ptolem II Keran murders Seleuk and is declared king of Macedonia
 ----- Antioch I succeeds to Seleukid empire
 280 B.C.E. - Gauls invade Macedonia and Thrakia
 ----- Defeat and death of Ptolem II Keran
 ----- Refounding of Achaean League
 ----- Clash between Antioch I and Ptolem II Filadelf
 279 B.C.E. - Gallic invasion repelled by Sosten at Delphi
 278 B.C.E. - Gauls (*Galatians*)⁸ invade Asia Minor
 ----- Reconciliation between Antioch I and Antigon II Gonat
 277 B.C.E. - Battle of Lizimaheia: Antigon II Gonat defeats Gauls and hailed king of Macedon
 276 B.C.E. - Aetolians annex Dolopia; Aegium joins Achaean League
 ----- Antigon II Gonat secures Thessalia
 ----- Filataer begins minting coins at Pergamum
 275 B.C.E. - Marriage of Ptolem II Filadelf to Arsinoe II
 274 B.C.E. - Outbreak of First Syrian War (272–272 B.C.E.)
 ----- Pyr occupies Macedonia
 272 B.C.E. - Death of Pyr in Arg
 ----- Antigon II Gonat new emperor of Macedonia

⁸ from “*Golotia*” - ‘nudity’ in plain Macedonian.

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